

SITUATION REPORT NO. 2
INCIDENT NO. 2006-016
DATE: March 31, 2006 Time: 5:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Spring Flooding** – The rapid snowmelt of heavy winter snow accumulations compounded by spring rains and sudden warm temperatures is causing spring flooding along the Red River Valley.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** On March 31, the ND Highway Patrol (NDHP) reported the death of one individual along a frontage road ditch filled with flood water north of Grand Forks and south of Manville. The individual was walking along the roadway when she fell into the ditch and drowned after her car had earlier gone into the ditch and stalled.
3. **DAMAGES:** The Grand Forks office of the National Weather Service (NWS) updated crest information for the Red River. Wahpeton is predicted to crest at 17 feet by midday Saturday, April 1; Fargo is predicted to crest at 37 feet the morning of Tuesday, April 4; and Grand Forks is predicted to crest at 47 feet on Friday, April 7.

The NWS forecasted one-quarter to one-half inch of rain that is expected to impact the southern Red River basin on the evening of April 1. On March 31, a slow moving large area of rain and rain/snow mix is hovering across eastern North Dakota and northwest Minnesota. This precipitation is expected to move out of the region by early evening. Another low system is expected to trek into the area on Sunday, April 2, as a low pressure system migrates into the Central Plains bringing a chance of showers.

The NWS has issued a Flood Warning for the Red River at East Grand Forks which is currently at 26.93 feet and is expected to rise above the 28 foot flood stage by this evening, cresting to near 47 feet by April 7.

Major flooding is reported in Wahpeton and Abercrombie. Moderate flooding is reported in Mapleton. Minor flooding is reported in Fargo and Harwood.

North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) reported a grade raise on ND State Highway 18, road is open for traffic. US Interstate 29 at mile marker 39 has been overtopped with flood water. The westbound driving lane of US Interstate 94 at mile marker 317 is submerged. Electronic signs have been activated. NDDOT and NDHP are diverting traffic. NDDOT is monitoring US Interstate 29 at the Harwood area for the potential for overtopping.

Location	Flood Stage	Forecasted Crest Level and Date	River Level	Date/Time
Red River at Wahpeton	10 feet	17 feet/Apr 2	15.38 feet	Mar 31/ 2:00 p.m.
Red River at Fargo	18 feet	37 feet/Apr 5	24.95 feet	Mar 31/ 1:00 p.m.
Red River at East Grand Forks	28 feet	46.7 feet/Apr 7	26.93 feet	Mar 31/ 12:30 p.m.
Wild Rice at Abercrombie	10 feet	25.5 feet/Apr 2	21.7 feet	Mar 31/ 12:30 p.m.
Sheyenne River at Kindred	16 feet	19 feet/Apr 3	12.84 feet	Mar 31/ 2:00 p.m.
Sheyenne River at West Fargo	18 feet	21.3 feet/Apr 5	16.69 feet	Mar 31/ 12:30 p.m.
Sheyenne River at Harwood	884 feet	891.8 feet/Apr 3	884.51 feet	Mar 31/ 11:00 a.m.
Maple River at Enderlin	9.5 feet	12.3 feet/Apr 2	7.6 feet	Mar 31/ 12:30 p.m.
Maple River at Mapleton	905 feet	909.3 feet/Apr 2	908.14 feet	Mar 31/ 10:30 a.m.
Goose River at Hillsboro	10 feet	14 feet/Apr 3	8.56 feet	Mar 31/ 12:30 p.m.
Willow Creek at Willow City	10 feet	Unknown at time of posting	9.72 feet	Mar 31/ 11:30 a.m.

Bottineau County

The County Emergency Manager reported one and one-half inches of rain had fallen during the night of March 30. Willow Creek is at 9.4 feet with flood stage at 10 feet. County officials expect Willow Creek to crest next week with minor flooding in Willow City. Water is running over the roads in some places but no reports of roads being washed out.

Cass County

The Fargo Emergency Manager reported pumps have been placed at the sewage treatment plant. Residents have been informed to plug the floor drains in their houses.

The following are streets and bridges are closed or will be closed in the Fargo area:

- 2nd Street
- Elm Street

- The North Fargo Bridge

Pembina County

The Emergency Manager reported rivers are still ice covered. There is approximately eight inches of snow left on the ground according to a weather spotter northwest of Cavalier, which is fairly consistent throughout the county.

Richland County

The Emergency Manager reported light rain is still being experienced after three quarters of an inch of rain fell the evening of March 30. The river rose approximately one and one-half feet overnight and is threatening the lift station in the city of Dwight. Two farmsteads have been surrounded by floodwaters.

Steele County

The Emergency Manager reported minor flooding is occurring in the southern portion of the county. County Roads 1 and 9 are closed along with several township roads with water over them.

Traill County

The Emergency Manager reported excessive rainfall in the last 24 hours in addition to the heavy snow melt. Numerous roads, bridges, farmland and residential properties are underwater. Several roads and bridges are blocked off due to the rising Red and Goose Rivers.

One rural Mayville resident has 12 inches of sewage backup in their basement caused by a saturated drain field septic tank shifting and breaking.

On March 30, overland flooding was occurring in several areas of the northern park of Traill County with one rural home east of Reynolds being threatened. The Reynolds Fire Department assisted with sandbagging efforts.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from the previous report.

STATE: No change from the previous report.

FEDERAL: In addition to the previous report, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will assist with the construction of an earthen dike in the city of Fargo and is providing technical assistance for the city of Wahpeton.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: In Fargo, the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross will be opening relief stations at a sandbag filling center.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor Hoeven requested assistance from the St. Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under the Emergency Operations Program of Public Law 84-99.

On March 31, the NDHP and the NDDOT issued a travel advisory for southeast North Dakota to include Cass, Ransom, Richland, Sargent and Traill counties due to possible flooding.

Cass County

The Emergency Manager reported an Emergency has been declared for Cass County and the City of Harwood. The USACE is working with the City of Fargo for dike construction along Second Street.

A sandbag filling center will open Saturday, April 1, for the City of Fargo. Sandbags will be distributed on a priority basis (critical areas first). Sandbags may be purchased at the center for the non-critical areas.

Pembina County

Current flood activity along the Red River has raised response levels for Pembina County. City and county officials will continue to monitor flow and mitigate any obstructions as necessary. Sand, sandbags, generators, and pumps have been identified and positioned across the county.

A news release was distributed in early March reminding citizens of 30-day waiting period for the National Flood Insurance Program and to be prepared to protect property.

Richland County

The Emergency Manager reported a county-wide Emergency has been declared.

Local officials are providing sandbags to farmers near the Wild Rice River. The Dwight Fire Department is sandbagging the city lift station to protect it from flood waters.

Traill County

County officials have declared an Emergency for Traill County.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Richland County has exhausted its resources for road closure signs and has also requested ND National Guard assistance with trucks for sandbag transporting if necessary as well as personnel for dike patrols.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No outside help is on scene.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Homeland Security's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/des>.

Greg Wilz, Director
N.D. Division of Homeland Security